

Kinship Care Fact Sheet

If you provide care for a relative child - for 24 hours day, seven days a week - there are benefits that you may be eligible to receive.



In Maryland, a person assuming care of a relative's child is referred to as a Kinship Caregiver. As the relative caregiver, you are able to apply on behalf of the child(ren) in your care for certain benefits.

AVAILABLE BENEFITS

"Child only" Temporary Cash Assistance Grant Application

This application can be made several ways: using the internet at <https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us/dashboardClient/#/home> or by requesting an application from your local department of social services by calling this general number 1(800) 332-6347. (No adult is included in the grant.)

Food Stamps

Application for food stamps is based on income for the entire household. Go to <https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us>

Child Care

If applicable, application for child care must be filed separately and is based on the caregiver's income. Go to http://msde.maryland.gov/MSDE/divisions/child_care/subsidy/ccs.htm#app

Health Connections

Only one application is required to determine the child's eligibility for health connections. Legal custody is not required. Go to <https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/>

Social Security Survivors Benefits or Social Security Income

If the parent(s) of the child in your care, is/are deceased or disabled,

the child maybe eligible for Social Security Survivor's Benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). You must apply directly with Social Security. The website is www.socialsecurity.gov or call 1(800)772-1213.

Maryland Children's Health Program (M-CHP)

M-CHP is available for children (up to age 19 years) in families with low income. See income guidelines and health department directory for locations at www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/glossary/maryland-childrens-health-program-mchp-3/ or call 1(877) 463-3464 for more information.

Consent of Health Care Affidavit

Available to relative caregiver who does not have legal custody or guardianship of the relative child in their care. You as the caregiver must be able to verify relationship to the child who is in need of health care services. To receive this form, contact 1(877)463-3464 or go to www.dhmv.state.md.us for your local health department's location and telephone number.

Education Affidavit

Provides relative caregivers assistance in enrolling the child in school and allows the relative caregiver to be an advocate for child in school matters. To receive the form, contact the child's school or for further assistance go to www.msde.state.md.us or (410) 767-0295.

KINSHIP CARE ADVOCATES

- **Grandparent Family Connections** (Baltimore) <http://www.family.umaryland.edu/fc-gfc/> or (410) 706-5479.
- **Grandparents & Other Relative Caregivers** (Baltimore) www.lighthouse.org or (410) 225-2600 X111.
- **Progressive Life Center Kinship Care Program** (Prince George's County and surrounding area) <http://www.plcnu.org/kinship-care.html> or (202) 842-4570.
- **Relatives as Parents Program** (Eastern Shore) <http://www.macinc.org/support-services.html> or (410) 742-0505 X105.

For specific questions contact your local department of social services or Tina Bullock State Kinship Care Coordinator tina.bullock@maryland.gov (410) 767-7557.

CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- **Mental Health for Children** <http://bha.dhmv.maryland.gov/SitePages/Children's%20Services.aspx> or (410)767-6860.
- **Maryland Coalition for Children's Mental Health** www.mdcoalition.org or (410) 730-8267.
- **Legal Services** www.mdlab.org or 1(800) 999-8904.

Maryland Department of Human Resources

1-888-MD-KIDS2 • (1-888-635-4372)
www.dhr.state.md.us/goto/kinship

